



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Minnesota I-35 bridge collapse felt throughout Wisconsin, the nation

The tragic collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minnesota has generated a flurry of media and public interest in bridges in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. All of Wisconsin's 13,654 bridges are inspected at least once every two years (includes all bridges along the state and local roadway network). Following the Minnesota bridge collapse, Governor Jim Doyle called for special inspections of 15 deck truss bridges in Wisconsin similar to the I-35 bridge. As an additional precautionary measure, the Governor also called for installation of monitoring systems on the 15 bridges to detect any abnormal movements. WisDOT adheres to federal standards in its bridge inspection program and prioritizes needed improvements to all bridges along the state highway system.

Hiawatha sets all-time monthly ridership record in July

A total of 57,144 passengers boarded Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains last month - an increase of 2.6% over July of 2006 and the highest monthly total ever in the history of the Hiawatha Service. Calendar year-to-date ridership through July stands at 335,010 - a 1.1% increase over the same period last year. Also in July, a total of 10,349 Hiawatha passengers got on/off at the Milwaukee Airport Rail station - an average of 334 people every day. Another 5,667 riders utilized the new Sturtevant station in July - about 183 per day. The Hiawatha makes seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago (six on Sundays) and currently boasts the best on-time performance of any Amtrak route in the nation.

Instead of standing in line, go on line

WisDOT's Division of Motor Vehicles provides customers a variety of options to conduct routine DMV business. Instead of driving to a customer service center, customers looking to renew their vehicle registration or who want to check on a vehicle title can use the telephone, U.S. mail, or the [DMV Web site](#). Another option is using one of the DMV's many third-party partners including convenience stores, law enforcement agencies, supermarkets and financial institutions that have been authorized to provide vehicle registration and in some cases, vehicle title services. A complete list of the [third-party partners](#) can be found posted alphabetically by county on the DMV Web site. Customers should keep in mind that some of the third-party outlets do charge a service fee.

When road construction comes to your area, we're "In this Together"

WisDOT recognizes that state-sponsored highway improvement projects can significantly impact commuters and businesses. Businesses located in work zones have special needs and it's crucial that business access be maintained to the extent possible. WisDOT's "In This Together" program includes a workbook and case studies that outline successful strategies businesses have used during construction periods. The program serves as a source of ideas to help businesses and community leaders plan for road construction in their area. More information on "In this Together" can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/itt/index.htm>.

Upcoming events

August 22 - 23: 33rd Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

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